

Mr. Thompson seems to have succeeded in producing an excellent memoir on the birds of Manitoba—a district concerning which our previous knowledge of its ornithology was but fragmentary. After describing the physical features of the country, which are further illustrated by a convenient map, the author takes the 266 species as yet known to belong to its avifauna in the systematic order of the A. O. U. List, and gives us his notes on each of them. A list of the principal authorities consulted and an alphabetical index of the species are subjoined. The only thing that we miss is some sort of a general account of the Manitoban avifauna, which would certainly have been a convenient addition to the work. We observe that the Passeres are 122 in number—rather less than the usual amount in an ordinary avifauna. The occasional occurrence of *Milvulus forficatus* so far north as York Factory, on Hudson's Bay, is a curious fact, which has, however, been previously recorded.

113. *Vorderman on the Birds of Billiton.*

[The Birds of Billiton. By A. G. Vorderman. Notes Leyd. Mus. xiii. p. 121.]

Herr Büttikofer translates and reprints from the Nat. Tijdschr. v. Ned. Ind. (1890) a paper by A. G. Vorderman on the birds of Billiton, which lies between Sumatra, Java, and Borneo. The island was visited in June 1888, and examples of 93 species (all known) were obtained or observed. Of these 32 are not found in Java, 10 are not found in Borneo, 8 are not known from Malacca, and 5 only not found in Sumatra. Thus Billiton is most nearly allied in its ornithology to Sumatra.

LIII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

THE following letters have been received, addressed to the Editor of 'The Ibis':—

Binny, Uphall, Linlithgowshire,
April 29th, 1891.

SIR,—At my ranche in Montana, on Powder River, on April 21st, 1890, about 2 P.M., I witnessed an extraordinary

flight of Buzzards (*Buteo swainsoni*). They came up from the east, about one thousand of them (on a rough estimate), and settled in the cotton-wood trees of our fenced horse-pasture, some of the larger trees containing fifty or more. I watched them through my binoculars, and, observing that most of them went to sleep immediately after alighting, I took my Holland ejector rook-rifle and killed six ; but only one of these appeared to be an adult.

I continued shooting for a bit in the hope of securing another adult, but without success. Some of the birds, presumably the old ones, were much more wary than the others and, flying from tree to tree, kept out of shot, while their less suspicious companions offered a tempting target at a range of about fifty yards. One bird, which had a broken wing, savagely went for my hand, and fixing its talons in my right thumb held on like grim death until I managed to give it the "coup de grâce." Upon going outside the horse-pasture I was astonished to see large numbers of the Buzzards on the prairie sitting amongst the cattle ; but being unable to approach them on foot on account of the steers, I returned for my horse ; and noticing as I passed that the trees in the enclosure were now considerably thinned of their occupants, I concluded that many of those in the trees had gone to recruit the ranks of those on the ground. When the flock took wing off the prairie, they alighted in the heavy timber on the river-bank, and I still continued my attempt to obtain another specimen with white breast and chin-spot ; but the birds so coloured were very wild, and, so far as I could make out with the binoculars, there were very few of them. I killed twelve altogether, and picked out six which showed variations in plumage, the remainder being duplicates of one or other of the six selected.

I may add that on the same afternoon I killed a Red-tailed Buzzard (*B. borealis*), which was sitting in a cotton-wood tree. At this time there were at least three or four pairs of this species in the vicinity of the ranche.

It struck me as a remarkable fact that so many Buzzards should be gathered in one place, and I do not think the

occurrence is satisfactorily explained by a prairie fire, which was the reason assigned by the cowboys for this strange invasion of "Hawks," as they call the Common Buzzards. I was glad anyway to note on the following morning that the Buzzard-host had disappeared as completely as the Assyrian army, since nothing but my presence restrained the cattlemen from utilizing the occasion for a general practice with their Winchesters.

Yours &c.,

E. S. CAMERON.

[Mr. Cameron has, at my suggestion, liberally presented a series of Buzzards which were sent to illustrate this letter to the British Museum.—ED.]

Nuneham Park, Oxon,
July 16th, 1891.

SIR,—I have been much interested in reading Mr. Ogilvie Grant's letter in your last number (above, p. 469). It brings back to my mind many a pleasant day of the olden time; for, although more than forty years have passed since I visited Madeira, that beauteous land,

"Where simply to feel that we breathe, that we live,
Is worth the best joy that earth elsewhere can give,"

yet I entertain a lively recollection of the time I spent with Lowe, Wollaston, and Asseveido in studying the natural products of the island.

I indeed regret if anything I ever wrote has led Mr. Ogilvie Grant or anyone else into error. I suppose Mr. Grant is alluding in his letter to a communication made in years gone by to the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History.'

I never set up for being a scientific ornithologist, although geographical ornithology has always had a great charm for me. By this term I mean the comparison of similar species of birds coming from various parts of the world. Of course ornithologists have their crazes like all other denominations. I remember procuring for Gould a number of specimens of Hoopoes from various quarters for the purpose of investigating the truth of his notion that the white spot on the

bastard wing of that bird had no existence beyond the 25th degree of east longitude. Again, I collected Pigeons for Darwin when he was investigating the question of the development of difference in species at various ages, from which it appeared that the Booz Pigeon from Tunis was hatched with an abnormally small beak, contrary to his favourite theory.

I hold that all such observations, apart from any fanciful deductions which may be drawn from them, are substantially useful, as affording materials for the ratiocination of future ornithologists. I have lived long enough to see former bright lights of science eclipsed by the still brighter lights of more modern times; but still it behoves those brighter lights to acknowledge that they are largely indebted to the honest work of their predecessors for the more exact results that they have perhaps been able to obtain. The systems of Linnæus and of Yarrell may be superseded, but, at any rate, they were the means by which their successors were led to better things.

Mr. Grant alludes to the "Gould Collection." I had the pleasure of presenting John Gould with very many specimens from Madeira, a few from India, and several from Spain and North Africa. It is therefore quite possible that the Petrel alluded to may have come from me.

And now for a word or two respecting the points which Mr. Grant refers to in his letter.

Firstly, as to the "Canario," as the Portuguese call it—that is to say, the green or wild Canary of Madeira. I had in the first instance actually written the specific name as "*canaria*." I was corrected by that eminent botanist and conchologist the Rev. R. T. Lowe, who was for so many years British Chaplain in Madeira, and who has written so many valuable books in his own departments of natural history. He told me that I was quite wrong, and that "*butyracea*" was the proper term. My respect for Mr. Lowe, and my faith in his knowledge—for, indeed, he was also a very competent ornithologist—induced me to correct my supposed error. I am now re-corrected by Mr. Grant,

and, as I am an "old-world" ornithologist, I am quite willing to bow to the more modern lights.

And now in respect to Mr. Ogilvie Grant's second point—namely, the Petrels.

As Mr. Grant is aware, in April 1844 Mr. Gould described ten new species of the family "Procellariidæ." In this paper reference is made to *Puffinus assimilis*, which he describes as "breeding on the eastern coast of Australia and on Norfolk Island." This I imagine to be the bird which is exercising Mr. Grant's lucubrations. The local names of the native Petrels in Madeira are the Cagarra, the Boeiro, the Pintainho, the Anginho, and the Roque de Castro. Dr. Heineken, Sir W. Jardine, and others have variously described them. The unravelling of synonyms is a puzzling task entailed upon successive ornithologists by their predecessors. Blessed is the man who lacks the scribendi-cacoethic bump, and whose ambition does not run after the fatal adjunct of "mihi" to an indefinite number of species which he holds to be "new to science"!

I was as much puzzled as well could be by the nomenclature of the Madeiran Petrels, but I had the advantage of being able to resort to my good old friend Mr. Yarrell, who abhorred, like the honest naturalist that he was, any useless or self-seeking multiplication of synonyms.

I may perhaps be allowed to remind Mr. Grant of Yarrell's judgment upon the point he is at present raising.

In writing to Mr. Edward Newman in 'The Zoologist' (June 14th, 1853), Mr. Yarrell says:—"Having carefully examined specimens of this bird from Australia, others from Madeira, and compared these with the recently-acquired example from Valentia Harbour, I am induced to consider them but as one species; and that the *Puffinus obscurus* of Mr. Gould's 'Birds of Europe' and the *Puffinus assimilis* of his 'Birds of Australia' are accordingly identical."

I have only to add my apologies for the length of this letter, and am,

Yours &c.,

E. W. HARCOURT.

2 U 2

Kilmory, Loch-Gilp-Head, N.B.,
July 27th, 1891.

SIR,—It may be of interest to some of the readers of 'The Ibis' to hear of the nesting of the Woodcock in the Outer Hebrides. My gamekeeper reports to me having found two nests this spring. I am not aware that any such have been previously recorded from the "Long Island," and, from the entire absence of both plantations and natural wood, few would expect such a district to be selected.

The only explanation that suggests itself to me is the occurrence of such exceptionally cold weather about the 8th and following days of March.

I have no record of temperature from Uist, but here in Argyllshire the thermometer was down to 16°, 17°, and 18° several nights.

Yours &c.,

JOHN CAMPBELL ORDE, of North Uist.

74 Jermyn Street, London,
August 18, 1891.

SIR,—I have long wished to ascertain what is the species of *Corvus* that inhabits Somali-land. Mr. Lort Phillips tells me that he found a large Crow very common there, and describes it as entirely black in colour, and of about the size of *Corvus corone*. He has also told me that the Great Spotted Cuckoo (*Coccyzus glandarius*) lays its eggs in the nests of this Crow, and has shown me several eggs of the Cuckoo which had been taken together with the eggs of the Crow. These latter were smaller than eggs of *Corvus umbrinus* and very blue in colour. I suppose that the Crow must be *Corvus affinis*, in which case it would be rather a novel circumstance that a *Raven* should be utilized by a Cuckoo to act as foster-parent to its offspring. But I should much like to know for certain what species of Crow inhabits Somali-land.

Yours &c.,

E. CAVENDISH TAYLOR.

[We have invited the special attention of our correspondent, Capt. Swayne, R.E., now resident at Berbera, to this inter-

esting point, and asked him to favour us with specimens of the Crow of that district.—EDITOR.]

The Progress of the B. M. Catalogue of Birds.—The 16th volume of the Catalogue of Birds is already partly printed. It will contain the Upupidæ and Trochilidæ, by Mr. Salvin, and the Cypselidæ, Caprimulgidæ, Podargidæ, and Steatornithidæ, by Herr E. Hartert, who is now in London hard at work on these groups. The 17th volume, by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe and Mr. Grant, is also making rapid progress. Mr. Grant has catalogued the Trogonidæ and Bucerotidæ, Dr. Sharpe the Meropidæ, Coraciidæ, Alcedinidæ, and remaining families of Anisodactylous Picariæ. Vols. XVIII. and XIX. (as noticed, *Ibis*, 1890, p. 450, and 1891, p. 461) are already published. Vol. XX. is devoted to Count Salvadori's Catalogue of Parrots, which is now passing through the press. We believe that Count Salvadori will also undertake the Pigeons, which will occupy Vol. XXI. The whole work will be completed in 24 or 25 volumes; the estimate made in a previous notice (*Ibis*, 1886, p. 375) was too high.

Additions to the National Collection of Birds.—In the "Return" presented to Parliament on the progress of the British Museum in the year 1890, we find recorded amongst "the most important acquisitions" in the Department of Zoology in 1890:—

(1). The sixth instalment of the Godman-Salvin Collection of Birds, consisting of 4044 specimens, amongst which are 1 type and examples of 19 species new to the Collection; presented by Messrs. Salvin and Godman.

(2). The final instalment of the Selater Collection of South American Birds, containing 834 specimens, of which 19 are types and 11 representatives of species new to the Collection.

(3). A series of 405 specimens of Alaudidæ, Upupidæ, and Alcedinidæ, chiefly from the Swinhoe Collection, amongst which are 8 types and examples of 3 species new to the Collection; presented by Mr. Seebohm.

(4). The second instalment of the Shelley Collection of African birds, containing 743 specimens, amongst which are 4 types and 5 representatives of species new to the Collection.

(5). A series of 530 specimens from South Africa, collected by Mr. T. Ayres, being the originals alluded to by him and the late J. H. Gurney in their papers on African Birds; presented by Mr. J. H. Gurney.

Under the head of "Birds" we find it recorded that, in 1890, 8337 additions were made to this class. In addition to the collections already mentioned, the following are stated to be the most important acquisitions:—

One hundred and thirty-six eggs from Spain and other parts of the Mediterranean region; presented by Lord Lilford.

Two hundred and sixteen eggs of birds from Fao, Persian Gulf; presented by W. D. Cumming, Esq.

Seventeen eggs from the islands of N.W. Australia; presented by Lieutenant Gerald Oliver, R.N.

One hundred and sixty birds and eggs from various localities visited by the Antarctic Expedition; bequeathed by the late Dr. M'Cormick.

Three British birds, including the only specimen of *Turdus sibiricus* as yet killed in England; bequeathed by the late Frederick Bond, Esq.

Nest, with eggs and adult birds, of the Crested Tit, from Scotland; presented by Lieutenant-Colonel Irby.

Nest, with eggs and adult birds, of the Bearded Tit, from Norfolk; presented by R. W. Chase, Esq.

A hundred and one specimens of birds from Piedmont; presented by the Turin Museum.

Three specimens of Holboell's Falcon (*Hierofalco holboelli*) from Iceland; presented by J. C. Millais, Esq.

Forty-seven birds from the Altai Mountains; presented by St. George Littledale, Esq.

One hundred and sixty-eight specimens of birds from the collection made by the late Dr. Severtzoff in various parts of Central Asia; purchased.

Forty-two specimens of birds from China; presented by F. W. Styan, Esq.

Eleven birds from Java and Billiton, including examples of three species new to the Collection, one being the type of *Siphia everetti* and *S. nigrogularis*; purchased.

Eighty-two specimens of birds from Madeira and the Desertas, including the type of *Accipiter granti*; presented by W. R. Ogilvie Grant, Esq.

Eggs and young, with the adult birds, of the Cream-coloured Courser; also four specimens of birds from the Canary Islands, three of them being of species new to the Collection; presented by E. G. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

Sixteen birds collected on the Aruwihimi River, by the late Mr. J. S. Jameson, including examples of six species new to the Collection, and the types of *Cossypha bartteloti*, *Diaphorophya jamesoni*, and *Pholidornis jamesoni*; presented by Mrs. Jameson.

Twenty birds from the river Niger; presented by Captain Mochler Ferryman.

Specimens of two species of Bustard from Somali-land, *Otis heuglini* and *O. guidiana*, both new to the Collection; presented by C. Chevalier, Esq.

Nineteen birds from the Sandwich Islands, collected by Mr. Knudsen, and containing examples of eight species new to the Collection; received in exchange from the Christiania Museum.

The type of *Pyrrhulopsis koroensis*, Layard; presented by Henry Seebohm, Esq.

Thirty-eight specimens collected on the Bellenden Ker range, in Queensland, including examples of four species new to the Collection; received in exchange from the Australian Museum, Sydney.

The National Collection of Birds' Eggs.—The Collection of Birds' Eggs in the British Museum of Natural History is now being rearranged under the superintendence of Mr. Seebohm, and when this has been done will no doubt prove to be the finest and most nearly complete of its kind in existence. It

is believed to contain nearly 50,000 specimens, of which the great Hume Collection contributed 18,500. Other notable collections recently added to the series are that of Messrs. Salvin and Godman (4000–5000 specimens) and that of Mr. Seeböhm himself (14,000 specimens), both of which are being amalgamated with the general series. We are much pleased to hear that the opportunity will be taken of picking out a complete set of the eggs of the (so-called) “British Birds,” and placing them in the British Gallery. They are to be arranged in a cabinet similar to that used for Lord Walsingham’s series of British Lepidoptera, so that they will remain easily accessible to the inquiring public without suffering injury from the light.

The Gurney Collection of Raptorial Birds.—The Collections of the Norwich and Norfolk Museum will shortly be removed from their present situation into the new buildings that are being prepared for their reception in Norwich Castle. The Committee to whom the difficult task of the removal and rearrangement of the Collections has been entrusted wisely propose to devote one of the best and largest of the new rooms to the exhibition of the Gurney Collection of Raptorial Birds, formed by the late John Henry Gurney, so well known to many of us, and presented by him to the Museum. The Gurney Collection consists of 3259 mounted and 1345 unmounted specimens of the Orders Accipitres and Striges, and, with the exception of the series in the British Museum, is probably the finest and most nearly complete collection of its kind at present existing.

Publications of the Second International Ornithological Congress.—Through the kindness of Dr. O. Herman, M.P., we have received from Budapest a complete set of the publications of the Second International Ornithological Congress in connection with their recent meeting. They are numerous and important. Besides Dr. Bowdler Sharpe’s Address on Classification (of which a notice is given above), and the Editor’s Address on recent progress in Geographical Ornithology (above, pp. 514–557), there are in this series—(1) “Aves

Hungariæ," a list of Hungarian birds, by J. Frivaldszky ; (2) a memoir on the birds in the Museum of Sarajevo, by O. Reiser ; (3) an explanation of the Exhibition of Hungarian Birds, prepared specially for the Congress by Dr. J. v. Madarász ; (4) a report on the present state of our knowledge of Bird-migration, by Dr. Palmén ; (5) a report upon Bird-protection, by Dr. Th. Liebe and v. Wangelin ; (6) a report on the International Protection of useful Birds, by T. Maday ; (7) a memoir on the first arrivals of summer-migrants in Hungary, by O. Herman ; (8) a set of Rules for Zoological Nomenclature, put before the Congress by Dr. Anton Reichenow ; (9) a report on the Anatomy of Birds, by Dr. Max Fürbringer ; (10) an Address on Fossil Birds, prepared by Prof. Alfred Newton ; (11) a biographical memoir of the late J. S. Petényi, prepared by Dr. Herman ; (12) a Plan for the organization of a permanent Intern. Orn. Committee, prepared by Dr. A. B. Meyer, and (13) a Plan for the regulations of such a Committee ; and (14) a report on the answers sent by Ornithologists to certain questions submitted to them, both by Dr. R. Blasius, President of the Intern. Orn. Committee. We hope to be able to notice some of these in our next number.

The Great Skua in Unst.—Mr. Tho. Edmondston writes as follows in 'The Times' (of Aug. 1st, 1891) respecting the preservation of the Great Skua (*Stercorarius catarrhactes*) in the Shetland Islands :—

"At the beginning of May I engaged a special keeper to live for three months on Hermanness, and keep watch and ward by night and day over the Skuas' home. Notices were published and extensively posted in the island, intimating that any person or persons found trespassing within the enclosure of Hermanness during the months of May, June, and July would be prosecuted ; but I am glad to say that no proceedings of this nature have been necessary. Early in May nine pairs of Skuas returned to the neighbourhood of their ancient nesting-place. One pair established themselves—an interesting fact—upon the hill at Saxavord,

a promontory opposite Hermanness, and a former but long-abandoned station of the Skua. Another pair selected as a domicile the heights of Sneuga, some distance to the south of Hermanness, and not on our land. Seven pairs sought again asylum within the territory of their old protectors. I grieve to say that both of the outlying nests were harried by egg-stealers, and that neither of the pairs succeeded in hatching their young. The Hermanness birds had a different fate; for, thanks to zealous and careful watching, the eggs in every one of the seven nests were hatched out, and the young birds were safely on the wing some weeks ago. This gratifying result is greatly owing to the personal supervision and unwearied care of my nephew, Mr. Laurence Edmondston, of Halligarth, from whose report to me I take the foregoing particulars.

“I may here repeat, what I had the honour of stating before the Zoological Society last April, that in my opinion the Skuas on Hermanness cannot be expected to increase much beyond the number now attained. In years gone by, when the colony reached 30 or 40 pairs, the two species of Gulls on which the Skuas chiefly depend for their piratical system of living, the Lesser Black Back and Herring Gull, were far more numerous in and around Hermanness than they are now. Protection for the Skuas implies some measure of protection also for the Gulls, but unless the latter greatly increase, the former cannot be expected to do so. In existing conditions, and pending a possible large increase in the number of Gulls, it is nearly certain that the Skua colony can only be increased by enlarging the area of ground protected.”

Birds extinct or becoming so in North America.—In the last-issued Report of the U.S. National Museum attention is drawn to the fact that seven species of birds in the North-American list are either already extinct or are rapidly becoming so. These are—the Great Auk (*Plautus impinnis*), the Labrador Duck (*Camptolaimus labradorius*), the Heath Hen (*Tympanuchus cupido*), the Passenger Pigeon (*Ecto-*

pistes migratorius), the Californian Vulture (*Pseudogryphus californianus*), the Carolina Paroquet (*Conurus carolinensis*), and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*). The first two of these birds are undoubtedly already extinct, and the Heath Hen, formerly so abundant, is nearly so. The Passenger Pigeon is still found in small numbers in the north-west, but will not last many years. The Californian Vulture is often destroyed by eating poisoned meat intended for other animals, and will soon perish. The Carolina Paroquet is persecuted for the sake of its plumage, and few specimens are now left, and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker is "rapidly diminishing in numbers." To this list an eighth species must be added—Pallas's Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax perspicillatus*), which, as has been previously stated (see Ibis, 1890, p. 382), is believed to have become extinct some years ago.

Occurrence of Grus leucogeranus in the Hebrides.—Mr. W. Eagle Clarke writes to us to announce that he has "just examined and identified a fine female of *Grus leucogeranus*, Pallas, which was shot at Barra, in the Outer Hebrides, on the 27th of August last. The bird was not killed outright, but survived for a few days in the possession of Dr. MacRury.

"This Asiatic species is not only new to Britain and to Western Europe, but has not, I believe, occurred west of St. Petersburg, where, however, and in Eastern Europe generally, it appears to be a rare casual visitant."

We hope to be able to give further particulars about this interesting occurrence in our next number.

Obituary. Sir O. B. C. ST. JOHN.—The death from pneumonia at Quetta of Col. Sir O. B. St. John, R.E., K.C.S.I., who has been a member of the B. O. U. since 1873, cannot be allowed to pass without a somewhat fuller notice than it was possible to give in the last number of 'The Ibis,' when the telegraphic report of the sad event had just reached this country. Although Sir O. B. St. John's only contribution

to the pages of this Journal is an account of the birds of Southern Afghanistan and Kelat, published in 1889, he has for many years, amidst arduous official work of various kinds, done much by collections and notes to improve our knowledge of Persian and Indian ornithology, and it is to him, directly or indirectly, that we are indebted for a very large part of our present acquaintance with the birds of Persia and Baluchistan. Nor has his attention been confined to birds; it was by his aid, and chiefly by his personal efforts, that the fine collection of Persian reptiles was made which was described by Dr. J. Anderson in the 'Proceedings' of the Zoological Society for 1872, and it was to him that the association of the present writer with the Survey of the Perso-Kelat frontier was due, whilst the resulting accounts of the mammals, birds, and reptiles of the country in the second volume of 'Eastern Persia' owed much of their value to his collections and notes on habits and distribution.

Oliver Beauchamp Coventry St. John was a member of a family that has long held a distinguished place in English history. His father, the late Captain St. John, of the Madras Army, was a grandson of the tenth Baron St. John. Sir O. St. John was born at Ryde, in the Isle of Wight, on March 21st, 1837, and was consequently at the time of his death in his 55th year. He received a military education at Addiscombe, and entered the Bengal Engineers in 1856, obtaining his lieutenant's commission in 1858. After four years' service in the N.W. Provinces of India and Oudh, he was appointed to the Persian telegraph service under Captain Patrick Stewart, R.E., and took a leading part, first in establishing and subsequently in maintaining telegraphic communication between India and Europe through Persia. He was thus engaged till 1871, with the exception of about a year in 1867-68, when he was placed in charge of the telegraph in Abyssinia during the British expedition to that country. This service he performed with great success, and for it, on his promotion to a captaincy, he received a brevet majority. In 1871 he was despatched on a special mission to survey the Perso-Kelat frontier, and for some time after

his return to England in 1872 was occupied in preparing maps of Persia at the India Office, a considerable part of the data having been derived from his own observations. He returned to India in 1875, and filled in succession a number of important posts, amongst them being those of Principal of Mayo College, Ajmere, Chief Political Officer to the Kandahar Field Force and Resident in Kandahar, Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan, Acting Resident at Hyderabad in the Deccan, Resident in Kashmir, Baroda, and Mysore, and finally again Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan. For his services he was made Companion of the Star of India in 1879, and Knight Commander in 1882.

The mere record of the posts held by Sir O. St. John is sufficient to show the value attached to his services by the Government of India, and his success, both in the high diplomatic appointments he filled during the last fifteen years of his life and in his earlier career in Persia, was partly due to his remarkable knowledge of Persian, the diplomatic language of so large a part of Asia, but still more to the esteem in which he was held, both by Asiatics and Europeans. He possessed in an eminent degree firmness and tact.

Few men have led a more active life, and few have passed unscathed through a greater variety of adventures. At Kandahar he escaped unhurt from the attack of a fanatical Afghan, who fired a pistol at him at so close quarters that his horse's hair was singed by the explosion. He owed his safety on the disastrous day of Maiwand to good horsemanship and a good horse, for he had to make his way through a cloud of the enemy's cavalry to the protection of the British artillery. Even more remarkable was the fact of his being engaged, at different times, but at equally close quarters, with a lion and a tiger, and escaping without a scratch. In the one case a lion leaped on his horse as he was riding, unattended, in the dusk of the evening, through the oak forest near Shiraz, in Southern Persia. The encounter with the tiger took place in the N.W. Provinces of India. The animal had been attacked and desperately wounded by St. John and

a companion of the same corps, now General Brownlow, both on foot, and had seized the latter, when St. John, who had discharged both barrels of his rifle, clubbed his weapon, came to the rescue of his friend, and fortunately succeeded in driving off the tiger and thereby in all probability saved his comrade's life. Even those who have not seen a tiger charge can appreciate the gallantry of such an action.

W. T. B.